



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, April 25, 2005

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

Fruit Fly

APHIS published an Interim rule on April 26, 2005, amending the West Indian fruit fly quarantine regulations, 7 CFR 301.98 removing grapefruit, sweet lime, sour orange, and sweet orange from the list of regulated articles. A review of available scientific literature and other information has led to the conclusion that these citrus fruits do not present a risk of spreading West Indian Fruit Fly. This action eliminates restrictions on the interstate movement of these citrus fruits from areas quarantined because of West Indian Fruit Fly and is effective immediately.

Source: Wayne Burnett

Soybean Rust

A weekly National Soybean Rust Conference Call for various stakeholders was convened April 27, 2005, at 1:00 PM. Another national stakeholder conference call is planned for May 04, 2005, at 1 PM. Approximately 40 participants representing USDA, APHIS, ARS, academia, and industry were present on the call. A revised "coordinated framework" document, reflecting roles and responsibilities has been posted to the USDA website.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture received notification today from the state of Georgia confirming the presence of soybean rust, on soybean leaf samples taken in Seminole county, GA. Soybean rust was positively identified by diagnosticians at the University of Georgia's Plant Disease Clinic located in Tifton, GA, on April 27. This is the first soybean rust find on soybean plants in the 2005 growing season. USDA is updating the soybean rust tracking feature on its Web site to keep soybean growers informed of where the disease was found, and given prevailing weather patterns, where it will most likely appear next. Please visit the following websites:

www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/news/press.html

www.agr.state.ga.us

www.gacaps.org

www.usda.gov/soybeanrust

Several USDA agencies are convening a workshop on "soybean rust scenarios" in St. Louis, MO on May 3, 2005. The purpose of the meeting is to test how state specialists provide management guidelines to growers under different soybean rust epidemic scenarios. Approximately 50 people are expected to attend the meeting including state departments of agriculture, universities, and several USDA agencies.

The American Phytopathological Society (APS), in partnership with several cooperating organizations, including USDA, announced the National Soybean Rust Symposium, November 15-16, 2005, in Nashville, TN. This will be a national forum of leaders in state and federal government, grower organizations, researchers, educators, crop consultants, agribusiness, food industry and others to review the U.S. soybean rust strategic plan and coordinated framework in light of knowledge acquired during the first crop season with Asian soybean rust in North America. For detailed information regarding this National Soybean Rust Symposium, refer to the following web site: <http://www.apsnet.org/on-line/sbr>

On April 27, Frank D. Lucas, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research, and Jerry Moran, Chairman of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, co-chaired a joint hearing to review the economic impact of Soybean Rust on the American farm sector. The Subcommittees heard from two panels of witnesses representing the USDA, EPA and industry groups. The Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management will hold a hearing on Wednesday, May 4, to examine crop insurance and ASR.

For more information, see The U.S. House Committee on Agriculture web site <http://agriculture.house.gov>

Source: Matt Royer